

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7930

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

S E C R E T PARIS 04800

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, CG, ZA, FR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE

REF: STATE 37690

1. IN ABSENCE QUAI AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, WE DISCUSSED REF WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR REMOVILLE ON FEB. L7. AS A RESULT OF OUR REGULAR DISCUSSIONS ON ANGOLA WITH THE FRENCH OVER THE PAST MONTHS, HE WAS ALREADY AWARE OF OUR VIEWS ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA AND SAID HE PERSONALLY AGREED ENTIRELY WITH REFTEL REASONING. BEYOND THE ON-GOING AID PROGRAM TO ZAIRE, THE FRENCH HAVE NOT YET DONE ANYTHING TO MEET ZAIRE'S RECENT LARGE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND "WHILE AT ZAMBIA'S SIDE", HAVE GIVEN LITTLE TO THAT COUNTRY.

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REMOVILLE THOUGHT THE FRENCH WOULD BE PREPARED TO

CONSIDER A COMMON EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE EFFORT BUT SAID
THEY HAVE NO PLANS TO RAISE THE MATTER IN THE EC.

2. TURNING TO THE BIG PICTURE, REMOVILLE SAID THAT
ANGOLA WAS SEEN BY AFRICANS AS A SOVIET VICTORY OVER
THE WEST. IN ALL CANDOR, U.S. NONINTERVENTION WAS
INTERPRETED AS THE U.S.'S HAVING GIVEN UP. THIS HAD
PRODUCED TWO REACTIONS AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS. FIRST,
MODERATES LIKE BONGO, HOUPHOUET, SENGHOR AND KAUNDA
WERE AFRAID, EVEN FOR THEIR LIVES, NOW THAT THE
SOVIETS APPEAR READY TO STOP AT NOTHING. SECOND,
THE MYTH OF THE SUPERIORITY OF SOVIET OVER WESTERN
ARMS HAD BEEN CREATED. THIS WAS DANGEROUS, ESPECIALLY
GIVEN THE CHEAPNESS OF SOVIET MATERIAL. IF THE WEST
DOES NOT REACT, THE AFRICANS MAY WELL TURN EN MASSE
TO THE SOVIETS. THIS PROBLEM, HE SUGGESTED, AND
ITS RELATIONSHIP TO AID TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA, SHOULD
BE TAKEN UP AT HIGH LEVELS BETWEEN THE US AND FRENCH
GOVERNMENTS.

3. COMMENT: AS SUGGESTED BY REMOVILLE, WE BELIEVE
FRENCH WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO A HIGH LEVEL APPROACH
SUGGESTING THAT THE U.S. EXAMINE WITH FRENCH AND
OTHERS OF THE NINE HOW THE WEST SHOULD REACT TO THE
SOVIET CHALLENGE IN AFRICA FOLLOWING THE MPLA VICTORY.
WHILE THE FRENCH WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO GIVE ZAIRE
SIGNIFICANT AID IN ANY CASE, SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT
HELP JUSTIFY INCREASED ASSISTANCE AND STIR THE FRENCH
TO SOME EFFORT IN ZAMBIA. IT ALSO MIGHT PERSUADE THE
FRENCH TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING AN EC ASSISTANCE
EFFORT WHICH OTHERWISE DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE CARDS.
IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, BELIEVE EARLY VISIT TO PARIS BY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE WOULD BE HELPFUL.
RUSH

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